



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 December 2009 from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa for 2009, as endorsed by the members of the Working Group (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ruhakana **Rugunda**
Chairman, Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention
and Resolution in Africa



Annex to the letter dated 30 December 2009 from the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council

Report on the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa for 2009

I. Introduction

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa was established by a note by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/207). The note, which delineated the composition, chairmanship, method of work and duration of the Working Group, also set out the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group as follows:

(a) To monitor the implementation of recommendations contained in presidential statement S/PRST/2002/2 and previous presidential statements and resolutions regarding conflict prevention and resolution in Africa;

(b) To propose recommendations on the enhancement of cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other United Nations agencies dealing with Africa;

(c) To examine, in particular, regional and cross-conflict issues that affect the Council's work on African conflict prevention and resolution;

(d) To propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution between the United Nations and regional (African Union) and subregional organizations.

2. By his note of 18 December 2008 (S/2008/795), the President of the Security Council conveyed the agreement of the Council that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, initially established on 1 March 2002, should be extended for a period of one year, and thus would continue its work until 31 December 2009.

3. Subsequently, pursuant to a note by the President of the Security Council dated 6 January 2009 (S/2009/2), Uganda succeeded South Africa as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group. Francis Butagira, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda, was elected as Chairman for the period ending 31 December 2009. He was subsequently replaced as Chairman on 18 February 2009 by his successor, Ruhakana Rugunda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda.

4. The present report reflects the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group that were conducted during 2009, under the chairmanship of Uganda.

II. Activities conducted

5. During the period under review, the Ad Hoc Working Group held four meetings. On 17 March 2009, the Working Group met to consult on the activities and work programme for 2009.

6. On 18 May 2009, Uganda, in its capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, co-led a Security Council mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa. The visit by the members of the Security Council was within the framework of cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The meetings with the African Union reviewed the situations in the Sudan and Somalia, the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of Governments and the financing of peacekeeping operations in Africa. The meeting was useful in strengthening cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, particularly with regard to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

7. On 18 June 2009, the Ad Hoc Working Group met and adopted the following programme of work:

(a) Continued informal and thematic meetings, workshops and forums, with a view to making proposals on measures that might best assist the Council in more effectively implementing strategies aimed at conflict prevention and resolution in Africa;

(b) Specific review of the situation in the West African region, including the impact of increasing drug trafficking and the related risk of relapse into conflict;

(c) Addressing ways to improve the working methods, cooperation and consultative process between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council;

(d) Reviewing how the United Nations, working with the African Union, can implement more effectively conflict prevention and resolution strategies in Africa;

(e) Discussing how the special needs of countries in Africa emerging from conflict could be addressed by assisting those countries in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

Briefing by Said Djinnit, Special Representative of Secretary-General for West Africa and head of the United Nations Office for West Africa

8. On 18 June 2009, the Ad Hoc Working Group also heard a briefing by Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, on the situation in the West African region, the impact of the increase in drug trafficking and the risk of relapse posed to countries in the region that were previously in conflict.

9. Mr. Djinnit highlighted the major factors behind the problem of drug trafficking in West Africa, including the fact that international trafficking networks were taking advantage of the porous borders and weak law enforcement capacities of the region. He pointed out the link between the spread of drug trafficking in the subregion and the risk of relapse into conflict, and warned that, if not addressed properly and immediately, the surge in drug trafficking in West Africa could jeopardize democratic governance in the region, support the expansion of criminal gangs and terrorist networks and further threaten peace, security and development across the entire continent.

10. Welcoming the recent endorsement of the operational plan of the regional action plan of the Economic Community of West African States, Mr. Djinnit noted that, in support of the implementation of that plan, the United Nations Office for

West Africa, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organization had forged a partnership to launch a joint programme in four pilot countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, to strengthen national police and law enforcement capacities. In this context, Mr. Djinnit stressed that the support of the international community would be crucial to translate the objectives of national integrated programmes into operational mechanisms. He also underscored the importance of the Council's continued support to countries of the subregion in order to overcome these challenges.

11. Council members underscored in a comprehensive manner the importance of addressing the threat posed by drug trafficking in the region and welcomed the timely and thorough briefing by Special Representative Djinnit on the issue.

Briefing by Patrick Hayford, Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

12. On 9 December 2009, the Working Group heard a briefing by Patrick Hayford, Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, on how the special needs of countries in Africa emerging from conflict could be addressed by assisting those countries in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. The Chairman, on behalf of the Working Group, underlined the importance of addressing, in a comprehensive way, sustainable peace and development in Africa.

13. Mr. Hayford noted that the Security Council, through the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, was addressing the special needs of post-conflict countries. He also cited integrated missions in which all entities were working together in synergy as clear examples of the Security Council's commitment to assisting post-conflict countries. He pointed out that the initial feedback on the involvement of the United Nations in post-conflict countries in Africa was positive, and noted that what was essential was to encourage all United Nations entities to co-locate and work closely together. He stressed the importance of national ownership and said that post-conflict countries should take control of national strategies and priorities for recovery, reconstruction and development, with the support of regional and international partners.

14. The Director highlighted the following as positive developments: the Council's approach to peace and security in a more holistic manner, particularly in linking peacekeeping to economic and social development; the increasing partnership between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, particularly the increase in meetings at the headquarters of both bodies and a mutual understanding of tackling peace and security in Africa; the adoption of the United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, which had helped the latter to strengthen its institutions; and the United Nations active engagement of the United Nations in supporting those regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which were playing an important role in supporting post-conflict countries.

15. He also pointed out that, in the past, the Security Council had tended to consider withdrawal of a peacekeeping mission from a country while peace was still fragile, thereby leaving room for relapse into conflict. In that respect, he commended the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office

for playing an important role by filling in the gaps with regard to the restoration of stability and economic revival in post-conflict countries.

16. On development, Mr. Hayford highlighted the work of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, and emphasized the link between its development work and the peace and security agenda. He reported that, as a result of the Steering Group's work, African countries were quantifying the level of resources needed to attain the Millennium Development Goals and were moving ahead. The focus was on supporting all ongoing efforts by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which was Africa's blueprint for development.

17. Mr. Hayford recalled that in 1998, when many countries in Africa were embroiled in conflict, the Secretary-General had set up a mechanism that had issued a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. He reported that, a year ago, the Secretary-General had decided that it was time to review the implementation of the report, given the changes that had taken place in Africa, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa had begun that exercise.

18. The members of the Working Group and Mr. Hayford exchanged views on the special needs of countries emerging from conflict. It was noted that needs depended on each country's specific situation but that priorities included disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; demobilization, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration of armed groups; and security sector reform. It was pointed out that the use of quick-impact projects helped to deliver economic dividends for people in need and that, where such projects had been implemented, they had proved effective as a short-term measure.

19. It was also noted that the role of regional and subregional organizations had changed over the years. They now had more vibrant organs, such as the African Union's Peace and Security Council, Panel of the Wise and the African Standby Force. The shift from the Organization of African Unity's policy of "non-interference in the internal affairs of other States" to the African Union's doctrine of interference in conflict situations that were considered a threat to peace and security was also cited as a positive development.

20. It was further noted that the global financial and economic downturn had had an impact on African countries in terms of commodity prices, export earnings and foreign direct investment.

21. The Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Mr. Hayford for his briefing. He underscored the need to ensure that the special needs of countries emerging from conflict in Africa were effectively addressed in order to lay a foundation for sustainable peace and development.

III. Conclusion

22. It has been an honour and privilege for Uganda to chair the Ad Hoc Working Group during 2009. The Ad Hoc Working Group is critical in maintaining the focus of the Security Council on the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Uganda appreciates the support and cooperation from all members of the Council. We are committed and ready to continue working with all members of the Council

in addressing the challenges that Africa still faces, in order to achieve sustainable peace, security and prosperity on the continent.

23. I wish to thank the Secretariat, especially the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, Oseloka Obaze, for their support regarding the activities of the Working Group.

New York, 28 December 2009

(Signed) Ruhakana **Rugunda**

Chairman, Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention
and Resolution in Africa